

*Police V. 7.*

S O M E  
O B J E C T I O N S  
T O T H E  
F O U N D L I N G - H O S P I T A L ,

CONSIDERED  
By a PERSON in the COUNTRY  
to whom they were sent.



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L O N D O N :  
Printed by T. P A S H A M, in Black-Fryars.

M.DCC.LXI.

THE  
 OBJECTIONS  
 TO THE  
 FOUNDLING-HOSPITAL

CONSIDERED  
 BY A PERSON  
 TO WHOM



L O N D O N :  
 Printed by T. Pasham, in Pall-mall.  
 MDCCLXXI.

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## P R E F A C E.

**A**S I had, long since, heard, that in one parish in *London* there were but two or three children alive at the end of the year, in which two hundred had been placed with parish nurses; and as I full well knew how general a disregard there was of the morals of those children, who were maintained at a parochial expence; I could not but consider the *erection* of a *Foundling-Hospital*, as likely to be of eminent service to the community.

When I met with a vote of the house of Commons very favourable to it, my hopes from it greatly increased.



ii P R E F A C E.

creased. For some time I heard nothing said to its prejudice, which seemed capable of having any weight with its more intelligent patrons: But being, at length told, that it was thought liable to some objections by no means immaterial; a friend in town was desired to procure an account of the objections there made to it: Ten were sent; and when they had been considered, what occurred on perusing them was delivered to the gentleman from whom they were received: Some of the governors of the hospital having seen the answer to them, notice was taken of it in the general meeting, at the instance of which it is now published.

I am, indeed, at such a distance from town, so very rarely go to it and always make so short a stay in it, that I may be thought not likely to have an exact information, how far the abuses of most charities are avoided in this.

But,



# P R E F A C E.     iii

But, certainly, what the management of the *Foundling-Hospital* is, they can fully know, in whose power it is to call before them and examine every person in it, and who have all the several articles of its expence every year laid before them; which is the case of both houses of parliament:-- The provision they make for this hospital is an annual one--The sum they give for its maintenance is accounted for to them--No abuse in it can escape their cognisance.--And is it not a strong argument in its favour that they have hitherto blamed no step taken by its directors?

The expence of it may appear very great, but has it yet been duly considered, how this expence may be lessened, or how it may chiefly fall where it is chiefly occasioned, where a great saving is made by it, and where the greatest advantage arises from it?

iv P R E F A C E.

Every thing here said in behalf of the *Foundling-Hospital* proceeds on the supposition, that the government of it having received no censure from our legislators, doth deserve none.

Of the necessity of some such provision for children who are either a reproach to their parents, or are sure to be neglected by them, I am fully convinced: If this way of providing for such children is experienced a wrong one, let it not be understood as here vindicated; if a better can be suggested, let it be tried.

Some there are, who oppose even the continuance of the *Foundling-Hospital* as a place of reception barely for the children within the bills of mortality: Others think, that very great advantage would arise to the public, even if the late practice were revived, and an admission into this hospital given to children whence-soever brought. I could wish that  
both

## P R E F A C E.

both sides may have that fair hearing, to which each is entitled, when avoiding passion, cavil and misrepresentation.

Of the highest importance it undoubtedly is, to consult the increase of our people, and by guarding against *their* bad education who must chiefly make that increase, to prevent our suffering more hurt by having our numbers augmented, than by their being lessened. Doth it not then deserve a serious and impartial inquiry--Whether a scheme for the general reception of deserted children can be carried into execution by some tax easy to all, and there principally raised where it will be principally beneficial?--Whether in other countries, where such a scheme takes place, the advantages of it are found over-balancing the expence?--Whether in our country, when the *Foundling-Hospital* received all who  
were



## vi P R E F A C E.

were sent to it, the numbers so received exceeded those which are admitted into the same hospitals in other countries equally populous; and afforded any just ground to suspect, that the poor at a distance from our metropolis would abandon the care of their children, when there was such a place for their reception?--Whether a scheme of this kind could be rendered subservient towards easing the nation of a part of the poors rate proportionate, or nearly so, to the charge it creates?

When I mention the poors rate, I cannot but lament it, as alike burthenfom in its imposition, and mischievous in its application--as the bane of frugality and industry--as distressing grievously the diligent and supporting the idle--as at once increasng our poor and corrupting them--as loading with the maintenance of others, even some, who  
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## P R E F A C E.   vii

with the greatest difficulty maintain themselves, and as depriving the community of the assistance that it most wants, by encouraging those to decline work, who might be employed in the usefulest.

What doth the present provision for our poor but licence those to create a vast expence, who will themselves bear the very least part of it--Give the disposal of the common purse to such as put the smallest sum in to it; and entrust people with the distribution of more pounds, than they were ever worth shillings, their debts paid? When I hear of much activity in an opposition to the *Foundling-Hospital* and an entire acquiescence in the poors rate, I cannot but think of those, who burn heretics, and allow sanctuary to murtherers.

S O M E

with the greatest difficulty maintain themselves, and as depriving the community of the assistance that is most wanted, by encouraging those to do no work, who might be employed in the most useful.

What then is the present position of our poor but industrious toilers? A vast number, who will thank us for the very least part of it—Give the handful of the common kind to the poor as part of the harvest fund to its and cultivate people with the distinction of more bounty than they were ever worth before, and their paid? When I hear of such assistance in an opposition to the system of the poor, and an entire acquiescence in the present law, I cannot but think of those, who have gathered, and allow themselves to multiply.



## S O M E

## OBJECTIONS, &amp;c.

## O B J E C T I O N I.

**I**T will cost a great sum of money to make this hospital universally useful; whereas the public are involved in debt and war, both which make frugality necessary.

## A N S W E R.

When the expence of this hospital, under a proper management, is very great, it can only be so, from the many whom it benefits: and the *clear proof* both of such due management, and such extensive benefit, must be the ground of any successful application to the legislature in its favor.

When this hospital, by being very extensively useful, requires a large sum for its support; it might save the public, much more than the public paid towards it.

It must considerably *increase* the number of our *people*: and not only do this, but *add* to the community *many useful members*.

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The children, which it might not be considered as preserving, it may truly be thought to educate in such a way, as must make them much more useful to their country, than they otherwise would be; and thus it may abundantly over-balance any present expence, that it can create.

If it should be instrumental in promoting such regulations as the poors-rate greatly wants, it might, in that particular alone, save us much more than it costs us.

Should not the parishes which are eased by this charity, be made to pay their proportion towards it? would not that answer a considerable part of its expence?

Is our debt greater than that of our neighbours the FRENCH?

Is there more money in any country which supports an hospital for deserted children than in our own? and if such hospitals are continued in all other places, where they have been erected, must it not be, because they find an advantage from them, over-ballancing the expence of them?

We are in much greater want of men than of money; and, certainly, our frugality cannot be better exercised in any article, than in so cheaply supporting and educating such a number of youths, as would otherwise be wholly lost to us; or be such nuisances, that we might wish they had not out-lived their infancy.

OBJECTION

## OBJECTION II.

Children may be maintained cheaper by the parishes, than they can be by an hospital; the parishes having officers appointed by law, who are to take nothing for the execution of their office: whereas the hospital must have officers and servants, and must pay the expence of carriage, of children, and nurses.

## A N S W E R.

The cheaper manner of maintaining children in their respective parishes, can be no argument against the encouragement of this hospital, if the greater expence of maintaining children in it, be answered by the advantages which the public receives thereby—if what the officers and servants of the hospital cost the community be fully repaid it, by what is here done for its younger members, beyond what would be done for them in their respective parishes.

Nothing can well be more generally known, than the indifference, and might I not justly use a harsher term, of overseers, towards preserving the lives of the children for whose maintenance they pay.

The small sum which they pay for maintaining children, when past their infancy, is attended with prodigious in-

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conveniences.—The children thus maintained are in the grossest manner neglected—are undisciplined, unprincipled, subjected to the strongest temptations to lying and pilfering, suffered to stroll in all places of common resort, and are, thereby, continually hearing and seeing what most tends to corrupt their morals.

*I believe it to be, in many parishes, it certainly is, in the parish in which I live, experienced, that it is much cheaper to pay a standing overseer, than to let that office be executed by persons, annually chosen, without any salary: and it is not unreasonable to hope, that this hospital may, at length, save the public full as much, as what is expended by it on officers and servants.*

That which occasioned at *first* the erection of this hospital, and that to which it owes all the encouragement which it has *since* received, is, either the notorious negligence, or corruption of overseers—the very bad discharge of their office with respect to the children under their care.

### O B J E C T I O N III.

Supposing the hospital to be now well managed, which is not admitted, yet it may become, as all human institutions are, liable to mis-management and corruption.

A N S W E R.



## A N S W E R.

If, at present, this hospital is ill-managed, let it be specified, wherein it is so: when such mis-management is proved, and proper measures are not taken by the governors to reform it, there is no question, but that the discouragement which the hospital must then deserve, will be shewn it.

If no instance of mis-management has been hitherto suggested to the governors, which they have not endeavoured to correct, they have done as much as can be expected from them.

That because this charity may be abused, it therefore should not be favoured, is an argument, which will equally hold against all hospitals—against endowments of every kind: and if it has any weight in this instance, it must have as great against all donations—for promoting learning and arts—for the relief of the sick and wounded poor—for supporting, in their declining years, those whose youth has passed, and strength been exhausted, in their countries service.

The governors of this hospital are, and probably always will be, of such rank and fortune; that, if any persons in the kingdom can be thought unlikely to betray their trust, it may fitly be thought so of them.

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The public is so much interested in the good management of this hospital—so many have their eyes upon it—any mis-management in it may be so easily known, and its dependance on the favor of the legislature will always be so great, that if abuses can be escaped any where, we may reasonably hope that they will be so here.

An account of the expences of this hospital is annually delivered to parliament.

#### O B J E C T I O N IV.

Supposing this institution in it self good, yet it may give rise and encouragement to many other societies, which may be whimsical, useless, or mischievous.

#### A N S W E R.

If there is nothing mischievous, useless, or whimsical in the design, or frame, or rules of this society, as it can have no connexion with any other society form'd either for wrong or trifling purposes, so it cannot be fairly considered as at all likely to give encouragement to the formation of any such society.

When it is certain, that such an hospital as this is much wanted—that great advantage may be obtained by it, which could not be hoped for without it; nothing can be more unreasonable than to deny it encouragement,

couragement, because fanciful, weak, or designing men may from thence take occasion to form schemes which ought to be discouraged, and which, whilst our present freedom of inquiry subsists, would, unquestionably, be very soon exposed as they ought to be, and thence meet with the general contempt, or abhorrence, which they deserve.

To object to this society inconveniences, which may only possibly arise from it, is to make an objection which will equally hold against the wisest institutions—the best laws—the worthiest undertakings.

The discountenance of this society would be no unlikely way to promote those which are mischievous, or useless; as the stoppage of liberality in this its proper channel, might be a temptation to open for its receipt those improper ones.

It is much less probable, that this society would give rise to any mischievous or useless societies; than it is, that the legislature, under whose patronage this society subsists, would suppress those societies, if any such arose, either at their very rise, or when it was found, that they did not speedily dissolve of themselves.

## OBJECTION



## OBJECTION V.

It encourages idleness by taking away the necessity which parents are under to maintain their children.

## A N S W E R.

When it is said, that parents are *under a necessity to maintain their children*, I suppose it to be meant, that they must do it, either, from the affection they bear to them; or, from the infamy they would incur by neglecting them; or, from the punishment which their neglect of them would receive from the magistrate. Their affection towards them can be very little, if, when able to maintain them, they will place them in an hospital—They will suffer as much in their character, by thus disposing of them, as they would by a neglect of them, which, if it did not send them speedily out of the world, would make them useless in it; or, rather, a grievance to it—The neglect, of which they can be guilty without having the least to fear from the magistrate, may be such, as will not only be utterly ruinous of their childrens morals, but even soon put a period to their lives.

The idly disposed can but little regard their own welfare: whence it is not to be believed they can have much regard for that of their children; whose utter ruin, through the fault of their parents, well deserves



deserves to be prevented; and they who are not idly disposed, will not be so far void of natural affection, as to part with their children when able by their labor to maintain them.

The parent who sends a child into this hospital, rather than make some small addition to his labor for its support, must be a person who ought least to be trusted with the education of that child—who would be sure to set it an example, which it could not follow, as it would be likely to do, without being a very bad member of the community.

The inclination of the poor to idleness is contracted, and the habit of it confirmed, before they have families: this habit is very seldom reformed by having a number of children; it then operates, either in the grossest neglect of them, or in running away from them, and leaving them to the care of the parish: nor is there, perhaps, a populous parish in the kingdom, which is not burthened with children deserted by their idle parents. No man is made idle by this hospital, who would not be so, were there no such hospital.

From the dearth of every sort of food, ever since the hospital has received all children sent to it, we may reasonably think

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that many industrious persons burthened with large families have placed their children in it: When the number of these is set at the lowest, that it can fairly be judged, and thereto a proper addition is made of children whom their parents do not care to own; all the children which can be supposed placed here in order to favour the idleness of their parents, must be, comparatively to the offspring of the whole of our working people, very few.

Should it be admitted, that some persons are the more idle for having their children maintained in this hospital; it makes abundant amends for this, by the industrious turn which it endeavours to give to all the children placed in it.

#### OBJECTION VI.

The children brought up by the hospital, having no parents or relations, are a body of people void of all social regards, and detach'd from the rest of the nation; and therefore may become inconvenient or dangerous.

#### A N S W E R.

The persons, by whose care children are brought up in this hospital, are to them instead of parents; and will, if they have any *gratitude*, be regarded by them as their parents; but if they are without any such

such principle, they would shew as little regard to their natural parents, as to their benefactors.

Who are the parents or relations of the children in this hospital?—Those, who, by deserting them, shew how little they can do, or would do, towards so providing for them, as might be likely to make them better citizens, from any sense they would have of filial duty.

When they, who are brought up in this hospital, owe to the charity of their countrymen, not only their subsistence whilst they are children, but their qualifications, when they have attained manhood, to provide themselves a comfortable subsistence; they can be under no inducement to lay aside all social regard—to look upon their interest as separate from that of the public.

It is one part of the design of this hospital, and no small part of the care of its governors, to imprint on the minds of the children brought up in it, a much stronger sense of duty, than what their parents would, in all probability, have ever given them; and which will, therefore, of course make them even better ENGLISHMEN, than they otherwise would be.

The children in this hospital are kept in it only till past their childhood; they then



are placed in the families of some or other of their countrymen; and thereby contract the same regard to them, which other young people have.

When the children attain the age at which society may be much hurt or benefited by them, they will, probably, marry, and be themselves parents; a tie much stronger than that of filial relation, and which will unite them to the rest of the nation as firmly as any others, born and bred in it, are united to it.

The children brought up in this hospital, by being better qualified to maintain themselves when they reach manhood, than they would have been if left to negligent parents, or parish officers; will, on that account, be much more likely to marry, and to consider their interest as united to the public.

#### OBJECTION VII.

These children must be educated in societies, and therefore cannot be so enured to labor and hardships as those brought up in cottages and villages.

#### A N S W E R.

In the former objection, these children are considered as likely to be brought up without any social regards; In this, they are considered as brought up in a way which will enforce these regards.

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Whom do we affect so much, as those, with whom we have passed our childhood; and on whose manners and customs we are formed?

- Very few of the children in this hospital are taken from villages and cottages.

- Many more than what are sent from them, are sent to pass their tender years in them; and afterwards, when they return to this hospital, they are fed—they are clothed—they are employed, in such a manner as will fit them to bear any hardships, to which they are likely to be exposed in their future life.

In this hospital less indulgence is shewn children, than they generally find in their parents cottages——They are less suffered to continue near a fire—they spend less time in idleness—their faculties are sooner called out—the powers both of their bodies and minds are more assiduously exercised: and when to this we add—the simplicity of their fare—the moderate quantity of it—the small time allowed them for their meals—the cheapness and lightness of their garments—their health alone consulted, in the beds on which they lie, in their covering when they sleep, and in the hours allowed them for sleep; it may justly be thought, that the boys and girls educated in this place are better fitted for all sorts of work,

work, than those which are brought up in villages and cottages.

Children sent by the directors of this hospital, at nine or ten years old, into the sea-service, have gone into very cold climates: and it was experienced, that there they preserved their health, and made themselves useful.

#### OBJECTION VIII.

It may tend to increase the quantity of land in mortmain.

#### A N S W E R.

The utmost increase of the quantity of land, held in mortmain, which can arise either from donations to, or purchases made by, this hospital, is very inconsiderable.

All that it has licence to hold, is but £.4000 per annum.

The land it purchases is not unalienable.

The design of the statute of mortmain, is, *to provide for the better defence of the realm*; which as it is likewise designed and greatly promoted by this charity; none, certainly, has a better claim to any favor, which, under the power reserved to the crown by that statute, may be shewn it.

#### OBJECTION IX.

It takes away the natural affection of parents from their children, and deprives the children of the natural benefits which are the consequences of parental care and affection.

#### A N S W E R.

## A N S W E R.

Most of the children placed in this hospital, are, certainly, the offspring of those, who, either, have very little affection towards such children; or, who having a proper affection towards them, are under an utter inability to maintain them. In neither of these cases can the hospital be considered as impairing the natural affection of parents; and, in the latter, it is assistant to those parents, who are the fittest objects of compassion. In both these cases, with respect to the children, a more reasonable kindness cannot be shown them, than in giving them the support and education which they would not be likely to have from parents; who, either, had no inclination to take a proper care of them; or who wanted the ability for it, though they did not the inclination.

No parents who have a due affection for their children, and would express it by the good offices they do them, are, from this hospital, under any the least inducements to lessen that affection, and to decline those offices. The parent, who has a just sense of his Duty to his offspring, and is willing to discharge it, has now the same inducement to, and the same opportunities for, its discharge, which he ever had.

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The provision made by this hospital is for the children of the great number of parents less tender, or very necessitous; and to such children, the concern of the benevolent is, with the utmost propriety, extended.

If any parent, at length, either better disposed towards his child, or better able to educate it, is willing to take it under his care; he is at full liberty to do it, only making to the hospital a reasonable allowance for its maintenance if he is able.

#### O B J E C T I O N X.

It is an encouragement to vice and immorality, by making an easy provision for illegitimate children; and taking away, by concealment, shame, which is the due portion of vice.

#### A N S W E R.

The persons, who would be willing to have their illegitimate children maintained in this hospital, are chiefly those, who are not in circumstances to maintain them: and as these persons make but a small part of the lewd, so most of them supporting themselves by their arts or bodily labor, and being able thereby to get their living in any part of the kingdom, they no sooner find that the partners of their guilt are breeding, than they go to some distant place; and having this way to evade all inconveniencies

inconveniences from any illegitimate offspring; we cannot justly think, that, if there was no hospital to receive it, they would be less licentious.

Can it reasonably be supposed, that he, who will not be withheld from lewdness, by the thought of its ruinous consequences to the poor woman he either corrupts, or confirms in her guilt—by any regard to the hurt which it may do his constitution—by any moral considerations whatever; would be more chaste, if there were not an hospital to maintain his bastards?

As for women, they who want a provision for their illegitimate children, are, notwithstanding this hospital, under such discouragements from giving way to their lust, that when it can be restrained by any prudential considerations, they will be sure not to gratify it.—They come under the cognizance of the civil magistrate—they are liable to ecclesiastical censure—they can seldom conceal their pregnancy from the notice of their neighbours—they deprive themselves of all hope of any future advantageous settlement; and they lose that character, without which it will be difficult for them to find any present honest support. It is not then to be thought, that they who will not be affected

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ted by these considerations, would be induced to preserve their chastity, if their children were not to be sent to this hospital, but were to be maintained by their parishes, or by their seducers labor, or by their own.

Were it to be allowed, that this hospital provides for the concealment of *lewdness*, must it not then be granted, that it prevents those infinitely more to be dreaded consequences, of seeking to conceal it by destroying children before they come into the world, or immediately after their birth? In the former of which cases, the destruction of the child is often that of the parents constitution; and in the latter, the unnatural mother either suffers an ignominious death; or, if pardoned, passes her days neglected, despised, and too likely to become thence a common prostitute.

Is not there some hope of repentance, and has there not been often a sincere repentance, where a character is not wholly lost; and where it is so, is there the least likelihood of repentance?

This hospital is, indeed, so far from encouraging lewdness by the provision it makes for deserted children; that, on the other hand, an institution  
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can, perhaps, be scarcely thought of, whereby lewdness is more likely to be prevented.

By its accustoming, the girls it receives, to such work as will be, in their future life, a sure provision for their support; it doth not a little contribute to hinder that seduction of them to which they are exposed, when they have not been brought up to labor, and put into a way of decently maintaining themselves.

By its taking both boys and girls out of families, in which the worst examples would be set them; and by its keeping all the children in it, for several years, out of the sight and hearing of whatever can tend to deprave their tender minds; it is of no small use towards securing their virtue in their future lives.

By the decorum required, and carefully observed, in it, and by the good principles which are inculcated, when they are likeliest to make the deepest and most lasting impression; it doth all that human endeavour can do, to give those educated in it, such a sense of their duty, as is the surest preservation of the purity of both sexes.

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By providing against any man being over-burthened with children, and thus removing the fear of having a family larger than what any industry can support, it removes the greatest discouragement to *marriage*; and, in promoting it, uses one of the most effectual methods to lessen the number of the lewd.

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